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CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Prenzlau

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 17 December 1953

REFERENCES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 26 November 1953, the barracks installation northwest of Berliner Strasse, Prenzlau, was occupied by about 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. About 30 troops practiced firing position in the barracks yard and 12 tanks were seen in the sheds.

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2. On 26 November, the barracks installation southeast of Berliner Strasse was occupied by about 2,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets.

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3. On 26 November, about 120 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia, armed with submachine guns, carbines and 3 light machine guns and carrying baggage were seen marching toward the town, coming from the direction of the barracks installations.

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4. [redacted] Several details did fatigue duty. The troops wore black-bordered crimson epaulets. The tank ditch in the south section of the installation was being lengthened by about 30 meters and deepened to about 1.5 meters. The mound along the ditch was brought to a height of about 3.5 meters. The mound at the west end of the ditch was also being heightened and braced by a board wall. [redacted] a new training ground was being built south of the installation toward Kleine Heide. The area was being cleared and foxholes, 3 x 3 meters and 3 x 4 meters and 1.5 meters deep, and trench positions were being dug out. The inside walls of the trenches were being boarded and supported by props. At midnight on 22 November, a JS-2 tank entered the installation from the direction of the railroad station. [redacted]

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[redacted] Lieutenant Colonel Kusmin (fnu), commanding officer of the unit, was back on duty.

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5. [redacted] Fatigue details were seen in the training area in the gravel pits south of the installation. The entire area was staked out by white, green and red poles. A telephone line was

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being constructed between the center of the gravel pits and a newly erected small building near Berliner Strasse. The trench positions near the firing range were being improved and old wooden one-story buildings were reconditioned and several new one-story buildings were under construction between Sternhagener Weg and the gravel pits.

Lieutenant Colonel Shuravlev (fnu) had been transferred; [redacted]

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[redacted] Lieutenant Colonel Pugachev (fnu) was allegedly also to be transferred or dismissed.

Lieutenant Colonels Grodetzki (fnu) and Masina (fnu) were still seen in the barracks area several days ago. Motor vehicles [redacted]

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[redacted] were seen en route to and from the installation.

6. Between 10 and 23 November, [redacted] the Soviet commissary was to be enlarged and to include more household utensils and vegetables. Numerous Russian families were expected to arrive soon in Prenzlau.

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7. Between 10 and 15 November, 286 troops marched to the railroad station from the barracks installations in Prenzlau. On 16 and 23 November, a total of 78 troops [redacted] believed to be recruits, and who included 39 troops wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets arrived in Prenzlau.

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[redacted] Comment. The occupation of the barracks installations in Prenzlau apparently did not change between 7 and 26 November 1953. [redacted]

The 83d Gds Hv Tank SF Regt of the 25th Tank Div can be confirmed in Prenzlau by Lieutenant Colonel Kusmin (fnu) until 23 November 1953. [redacted]

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